Research on drought resistant crops

5132. SHRISANTOSHBAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any research conducted by any Agricultural Institute in the country on crop yield using less water,

(b) if so, the details of research conducted alongwith the names of institutes;

(c) if not, whether Government feel the need to direct all Agricultural Institutes in the country to conduct such research as most of the States suffer from drought every summer or similar conditions; and

(d) if so, by when Government would respond in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIHUKUMDEO NARAYAN YAD AV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several Institutes have developed specific technologies of lesser water use like drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, land levelling, conservation tillage, organic & plastic mulches, impermeable sub surface barriers etc. in variou' crops like rice, wheat, tomato, okra, onion, broccoli, cabbage, sugarcane, kinnow, lemon, pomegranate etc. This work has been carried out at Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Bhubaneswar, Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack and ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Does not arise.

Availability of water for agricultural production

5133. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:Will the Minister of AGRICULTURAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has been experiencing poor rains during the last five years;

(b) if so, the man made reasons therefore and the rain prospects this year;

(c) whether Government have assessed the impact of poor rains on rural income and its purchasing power;.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure sufficient availability of water for agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The monsoon rains in the